

**KLEW-TV**  
**January 2013 – March 2013**

**School Safety:**

The horrific shooting that took the lives of school children in Newtown, Connecticut have many administrators and teachers thinking about the rules and regulations designed to keep students safe. There is a need to assess security threats and develop security plans and procedures in coordination with local law enforcement.

**Gun Control:**

How lawmakers legislation bills would affect law-abiding citizens proposed gun control changes. Preserving the rights of gun owners is a controversial issue. Many ideas include background checks for private gun transactions; stricter concealed weapons permit approvals, gun free zones, banning assault weapons. Second amendment right to bear arms may be infringed upon.

**Home Rule Charter:**

Citizens for Better Government group initiated a resolution to ask voters if they are in favor of electing a group of freeholders to write a Home Rule charter that would combine governments of the cities of Asotin and Clarkston and Asotin County. Asotin Co. voters will decide in November on this issue.

**U.S. Highway 95 Project:**

Thorncreek Road to Moscow project would replace 6.5 miles of the existing two-lane roadway with a new four-lane divided highway. This dangerous part of the highway has a high accident rate with over 200 crashes in the last 4 years. The project is expected to improve safety and highway capacity. Local environmentalists have expressed concern with the three different routes that have been proposed.

**Government Sequestration:**

Sequester budget cuts in just about every government agency and program worry many tax payers will have to pay for more services. People who rely more heavily on government help are more vulnerable.

**KLEW-TV**  
**Issues/Programs List**  
**January 2013 – March 2013**

**The Need to Address School Safety:**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/16/13, 11:00p.m.

Duration: 1:15

Description: KLEW News reported that with the deadly shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut just last month, we have learned that Moscow High School has changed the way visitors can come and go. A new administration office is currently under construction and built right at the front entrance. Bob Celebrezze has been the principal at Moscow High School for 13 years, and he said that even though Moscow is a safe community, you can never be too safe. "After the Sandy Hook tragedy, I really was shook by what occurred," said Celebrezze. "What we decided to do as an administration is to add a presence where a vast majority of the student body are housed." The principal has also enacted mandatory check-ins for all visitors. They started constructing the new office by the Third Street entrance over winter break, and it should be finished in about a week. Officials are hoping it will improve surveillance of both students and visitors. Moscow High School is one of the first schools in the northwest to make such big security changes so fast.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/23/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:51

Description: KLEW News reported that what initially came out as a report of a young man arrested after bringing a gun and knife to a Clarkston school turned out to be much more. The 16-year-old boy was found with weapons at Clarkston's Educational Opportunity Center on Tuesday. He was searched because of an incident that occurred the night before, on Monday. According to Asotin county court documents the boy allegedly went to an ex-girlfriend's house and strangled her multiple times while threatening to kill her. The altercation led police to confront him at school on Tuesday, where he was found with an unloaded handgun and switch blade. "Clearly this court finds that the state has made a high showing, that there's a huge community safety risk involved here and I order the detention of, for community safety," said Hell's Canyon Superior Court Judge William Acey. The two incidents are completely separate and as a result the boy may face six felony charges. He's currently detained and will be back in court on Monday for an arraignment.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/25/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:05

Description: KLEW News reported that The Clarkston School District safety policy is an issue of great importance and concern to many, including administrators and teachers. It's been more than a month since a horrific shooting took the lives of school children in Newtown, Connecticut. But the question of safety in schools lingers in the air.

"The thing we've heard the most is that we've gotten some concerns about our facilities," said Clarkston School District Superintendent Darcy Weiser. "The ability to lock rooms, the ability to go to a shelter, or place or a lock-down evacuation." It's a concern that Weisner is actively addressing. Veteran Science Teacher James Snook said his routine hasn't changed since recent events have caused a nationwide call for reform.

"My classroom I've had locked for fifteen years or more, just because I don't want to have to go into the hallway if an intruder's coming in," said Snook. "I like to be prepared."

Preparation is a key element in school safety and for some school districts around the country that means arming teachers with a gun. Weisner said they stick to the regulations that are set forth by the Washington State legislature. "We would follow their guidelines in Olympia if they dropped some bills and gave schools authority to do something different then we're already doing," said Weisner. At this time, Weisner said teachers and students are allowed to carry spray devices like mace and pepper spray, but only for self-defense. "As far as a local school district, we believe that the policies and procedures that are in place are sufficient," said Weisner. However English teacher David Piper doesn't think his students should carry those weapons on school grounds.

"Absolutely not," said Piper. "I think that they're too young, they're not legally allowed to purchase those things and so no I don't believe that they should be allowed to do that."

Weisner said students between the ages of fourteen and eighteen must declare the devices if they bring them to school. In the Clarkston School District, bringing a firearm to school as a student could result in a one-year expulsion and legal trouble.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/25/13, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:50

Description: KLEW News reported that on Tuesday, Washington State University's Thomas S. Foley Institute will host a debate on gun control. In January two students parked in a police lot at WSU and removed their 12-gauge shotguns from the truck. The students were following state law, which required students to store their pistols, rifles and shotguns at the campus police station. But some students feel that's not right. They said it's an inconvenience. Washington law bans firearms on university property. Again, Tuesday's gun debate on the campus will be inside the Thomas S. Foley Institute.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/6/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:30

Description: KLEW News reported that Security at LCSC is investigating an incident of concern after a female student reported that she was violated by an unknown man.

Walking alone at night can be a scary prospect for many that fear allegedly turned into reality for one local woman on the night of February 27th on the LCSC campus. A student at the college reported that she was violated by an unknown man. "The man approached her and made some inappropriate comments to her," said LCSC Director of Communications Greg Meyer. After that the man allegedly forced her to touch him inappropriately. "At that point she told campus security that she reached for some mace that she was carrying and that the man walked away at that time," said Meyer.

The issue of campus safety is now of obvious concern to those on campus in light of a school wide e-mail that was sent out to all LCSC students, staff and faculty.

"The determination was made that it warranted an e-mail to the entire campus community, students, faculty and staff in accordance with our timely warning policy," said Meyer. LCSC offers security on campus and school officials said that they do their best to make sure these types of incidents are not re-occurring, and that their students feel safe at all times. Some students on the LCSC campus had very limited safety concerns.

"It's a really calm environment and there's lots of people around," said LCSC student Alyissa White. "I don't ever feel like I'm alone really." "There are of course times during night when it can get a little iffy," said LCSC student Brent Fry. While the incident allegedly happened a week ago, security was not made aware immediately, and unable to interview the woman until Sunday afternoon. We asked why Lewiston Police was not contacted about the incident immediately. "The alleged victim decided not to file a report with Lewiston police, so LCSC security is handling it," said Meyer.

Lewiston Police Captain Roger Lanier said there are many precautions one can take to prevent themselves from becoming a victim. "Stay on some of the lighted paths, there's pretty good lighting in most of the areas, particularly around the college campus," said Lanier. "Walk in groups if you can." Campus security escorts are made available if you feel you need one.

## **The Need to Address Gun Control**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/16/13, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:50

Description: KLEW News reported that President Obama today laid out a comprehensive package for reducing gun violence in America. Among some of the initiatives in the plan are universal background checks for gun sales; the reinstatement of the assault weapons ban; providing schools with resource officers; putting more police officers on the streets; and creating serious punishments for gun trafficking. Not everyone agrees with the proposed changes. Before the president unveiled his proposals, the National Rifle Association released an ad calling the president an "elitist hypocrite" because his daughters have secret service protection.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/11/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:30

Description: KLEW News reported that following the tragic school shooting in Connecticut, gun sales across the country have skyrocketed, especially in regions like ours where hunting is a popular activity. Palouse Reporter Rachel Dubrovin explains what concerns local gun enthusiasts have while the gun control debate continues in Washington DC. "We had a small spike in sales of certain ammunition and rifles after the election," said Edwards. Sure Shot Owner Charles Edwards said that sales at his gun shop in Moscow have had their ups and downs over the last few months. "Of course we always have our peak for Christmas season," said Edwards. "You know .22's and shotguns, Christmas presents." Edwards said the largest spike came immediately after tragedy struck Connecticut, and debates over gun control sparked in Washington DC.

"Unfortunately, as we all saw the event in December, we had a huge spike in sales for about two weeks," said Edwards. "And now we're still a little elevated for this time of year, but we've run out of merchandise to sell now." Edwards says that he's ordered \$50,000 worth of ammo over the last three weeks, an amount that he would typically order over the course of four months. He gets small shipments every couple of days that take care of some of the customer demand, but he says even that won't last long.

"Eventually, though, the demand is going to go past what they can supply us with, even on back orders, and we'll be out for two, three months," said Edwards. The potential for the supply to run out is particularly concerning for Edwards. "Kills 30-40% of our business," said Edwards. His customers are also worried. "Pretty much everything's been cleaned out," said hunter Curtis Winegar. Winegar said he recently visited eight gun shops in the Quad-Cities area, and didn't have much luck. "I didn't find any ammo left anywhere left in the .223, or the other common ammo," said Winegar. Edwards said that he saw a similar spike in sales in the first part of 2009, and that he ended up losing more than \$40,000 in gross sales because he was out of ammunition for months at a time.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/20/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:57

Description: KLEW News reported that lawmakers debate a bill that could put armed guards inside your child's school. As Scott Logan reports it passed the senate but there's a hold-up in the house. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Marvin Hagedorn, is a reaction to the shootings in Newtown Conn. The proposal would require school boards to work with county sheriffs to come up with detailed plans to beef up school security. And some state representatives now want to add language giving local police chiefs a more defined role in developing those security plans as well. One section in this bill has gotten a lot of public attention, and that's the part that would allow school bus drivers and teachers to carry weapons, but Senator Hagedorn said that's not a new concept. Hagedorn said his bill is important because it ensures that school boards will have a working relationship with law enforcement, where they might not, and for those security plans to be reviewed annually by the department of education. The Idaho Press Club and Idaho Freedom Foundation have also urged changes to public records exemptions in the school security bill, exemptions which they say are too broad.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/25/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:06

Description: KLEW News reported that Gun enthusiasts were locked and loaded with their Second Amendment rights and grass root patriotism at the root of a gun rights rally last weekend in Lewiston. "The laws were made to protect people, so we can protect ourselves if we have an intruder come into our home," said Stan Eccles. Close to 500 people were in attendance to rally around what they see as a new wave of government infringement on their right to bear arms. "The government will inch by inch take all the weapons," said Dianne Capps of the WA. State Tea Party. "Why are we looking at unconstitutional laws when we have to go spend thousands of dollars litigating in the courts when we could be spending that money in education," said County Commissioner Jim Chmelik. Many of the rally-goers are closely following proposed legislation that would place new restrictions on certain types of guns sold and on magazine size. But gun enthusiasts say it doesn't matter the size of the magazine, rather it comes down to the responsibility of the owner. "I don't care whether it's a 30-round magazine or a ten-round magazine, you have the right to bear arms," said Chmelik. "Those that are responsible with their guns, they'll take care of them the way they should," said Maureen Lombard. "They wouldn't be out killing people." This topic has been in the spotlight since the tragic Sandy Hook School shootings, which left 26 dead. Many rally supporters stand by what the NRA has previously stated; that it's the no-weapons policies at schools that put children's lives at risk. "We need to have someone of authority carrying weapons in the school to protect people that want to come in and assault our children," said Diane Capps. "Take an example at Colorado in the movie theatre, it was a gun free zone," said Chmelik. Many at the rally believe government intrusion on their rights will leave a bullet-sized hole in their personal freedom.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/26/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:15

Description: KLEW News reported that as the Gun Control debate heats up in Washington DC, University of Idaho students were invited to share their feelings about the controversy in a "Campus Conversations" forum Tuesday afternoon. Students discussed things like the media's portrayal of gun violence, and gun control on campus. The students we talked to didn't seem to think that more federal regulations on firearms would solve the issue. "I believe in gun rights all around," said U of I student Caleb Larson. "I think they shouldn't be able to tell us how many rounds we can carry in a magazine, I don't think they should tell us whether or not we can have "Assault Weapons" or not." "What we really need to do is find a way to help people not be so violent and strike out violently," said U of I student John MacPherson. "So gun control alone isn't going to help. We need a mixture of a lot of different things." Currently, the U of I doesn't allow weapons on campus and students living on campus are required to store their firearms at the Moscow Police Department. Some students believe that changing the policy to allow people to carry guns would make the campus safer and allow them to protect themselves from potential shooters. Others say that it's just too risky.

### **The Need to Address Home Rule Charter**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/14/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:02

Description: KLEW News reported that Citizens for Better Government, a group in support of a home rule charter, got approval from auditor Darla McKay after turning in the necessary amount of petition signatures. The resolution seeks to consolidate the Asotin County Commission, the Asotin City Council and the Clarkston City Council into a smaller government entity for efficiency. Certification of the signatures by the county is next step. Then the county commission must pass a resolution to place it on the ballot. "And once again it will be the candidacy of freeholders themselves," said Asotin County Commissioner Brian Shinn. If the resolution gets approved for the ballot, voters must say yes to the consolidation and vote for freeholders who will draft the charter that enables the city-county government.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/28/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:15

Description: KLEW News reported that the Asotin County Commissioners handed out copies of a possible Home Rule Charter Resolution earlier Monday morning.

It's all to get feedback for what could be a big change for the county.

In an effort to cut costs, Clarkston Attorney Scott Broyles and members of Citizens for Better Government want to combine all three local governments. That includes the city of Asotin, the city of Clarkston, and Asotin County. Since they already got enough signatures for their petition, all they need now is for the Asotin county commissioners to adopt the resolution. That would then get it on the 2013 General Election ballot. The commissioners are requesting feedback from the public, before they make any decisions about the resolution. Now since they already got enough signatures for their petition, all they need now is for the Asotin County Commissioners to adopt the resolution. That would then get it on the 2013 General Election ballot. The commissioners are requesting feedback from the public before they make any decisions about the resolution.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/5/13, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:55

Description: KLEW News reported that the Asotin County Commission passed a resolution Monday that will put a home rule initiative, and combine governing bodies of two cities and the county, into one. In an effort to cut costs, Clarkston Attorney Scott Broyles and members of Citizens for Better Government want to streamline the local governments. That includes the city of Asotin, the city of Clarkston, and Asotin County. After limited discussion by the Commissioners, the resolution was passed. Now the measure will appear on the 2013 general election ballot.



Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/20/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:30

Description: KLEW News reported that a new version of the Home Rule issue to be decided by voters was the main concern for many people who gathered in the Asotin County Commissioner's chambers for the first town hall meeting of the year. "What we've got is better than trying to consolidate," said concerned citizen. Concerned citizens and officials from all over Asotin County gathered Tuesday night to gain a better understanding of what a Home Rule Charter would mean for local government. "We are taking no stand whatsoever officially as a commission or as a county government on Citizens for Better Government," said Asotin County Commissioner Brian Shinn. A proposition organized by Citizens for Better Government and approved for the November ballot by the Asotin County Commission would combine the county's governing body with the councils of both the City of Asotin as well as the City of Clarkston into one unified city-county government. Spokesperson for CBG Brian Kolstad answered questions throughout the evening, emphasizing how streamlined the government could be if the charter is successful. "When a community of our size can't cooperate between the city and the county you have to kind of look a little bit deeper and say what's causing that?" said Kolstad. Despite Kolstad's reasoning, mayors from both Clarkston and Asotin spoke up in defense of their constituents. Clarkston Mayor Kathleen Warren countered one of Kolstad's arguments, that the city having their own ambulance service is a waste of resources. "Before you assume that the ambulance service isn't doing what it should, considering the fact that the people like the way it's going and it's costing less not more," said Warren. Asotin Mayor Vikki Bonfield expressed her concern about proper representation for the significantly smaller city in the new proposed government model. If the proposition passes in November freeholders are to be elected to write a charter. But they'll be elected at large, instead of restricting people to vote only on the candidates in their district. "To me that is not an appropriate way for the free holders to be elected," said Bonfield. "They will not be representing people in a way that I think they should be represented." Citizens at the meeting asked Kolstad to calculate hard figures on how much consolidating the government would save the county. Kolstad said it's hard to know what the long term savings would be until elected freeholders create a governmental structure. If the proposition is passed in November, 17 freeholders would be elected at that same time. The freeholders will then have two years to draft a charter which would solidify the details of the consolidation. If and when that happens, the charter needs to be voted on by the people to approve it.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/19/13, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:45

Description: KLEW News reported that the Asotin County Commissioners hosted their first town hall meeting of the 2013 year Tuesday evening to a packed house. The topic that has everyone asking questions was regarding a recent resolution that was approved by the commission for the November ballot. If voted yes by the voters of Asotin County, a Home Rule Charter would be written that would consolidate the Asotin County Commission, the City of Asotin council and the City of Clarkston Council.

### **The Need to Address U.S. Highway 95**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/24/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:10

Description: KLEW News reported that Hundreds of people came to the Best Western in Moscow to give their opinion on the Highway 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Project. There's a total of four alternatives for the project: E-2, C-3, W-4, or the simple, do-nothing approach. But the debate about the project really comes down to one question: whether you're for or against the E-2 alternative. "Why?" said E-2 opposer Mary Ullrich. "Why this trail of insistence on pursuing the most environmentally disruptive alignment." The environmentalists spoke early and often at the hearing, saying that eastern alternative, E-2, would bring a large highway too close to Paradise Ridge. "I encourage the ITD to look at another route other than E-2 so we can leave this incredibly valuable ecosystem to our children, our grandchildren, and future generations," said E-2 opposer Pamela Brumsfeld. Opposers of E-2 also had a problem with the Idaho Transportation Department's weather safety analysis. "Seems severely flawed," said E-2 opposer Zachary Johnson. "They're only looking at five months during a year in which it was quite abnormal, much warmer than normal, much less precipitation." However, E-2 is the preferred alternative of the Idaho Transportation Department. They said it's the safest, and the Federal Highway Administration has already approved it. Del Hungerford lives along the proposed E-2 path, and she came to show her support for the safest route. "And if that includes losing my home, fine," said E-2 supporter Del Hungerford. "Because I know a lot of people who have died on Riesenauer Hill." One thing that most of the speakers agreed on is that no matter which route is chosen, something needs to be done to make this six and a half mile stretch of 95 safer for drivers. "Ten years they've been messing around with it, and you know, deaths are happening on the old route," said E-2 supporter Jim Anderson. Construction on the project will start in the summer of 2015, and they plan to have it complete by the end of 2016.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/23/13, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:04

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho Transportation Department is holding a public hearing about the U.S. 95 widening project from Thorncreek Road to Moscow. Officials are asking the public to comment on the project's draft for the environmental impact statement. That plan provides three options for re-alignment, and an expansion of six and a half miles of the highway. ITD has been working on this statement for almost a full decade now, since 2003. They've studied how each route would affect wildlife, noise levels, wetlands, farmland, and driving conditions. "To me the biggest benefit is safety," said Project Manager Ken Hell. "You know, we're figuring four times less crashes with this project per year." According to ITD, there have been more than 200 crashes on this section of highway over the last four years. ITD said this is the fourth most dangerous section of highway in the state.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/4/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:20

Description: KLEW News reported that the Latah County Commission is putting their support behind the E-2 alternative plan for the proposed widening of the Thorncreek Road to Moscow section of Highway 95. E-2 is the preferred alternative of the Idaho Transportation Department because they say it's the safest of the four options, and the Federal Highway Administration has already approved it. Commissioners plan to submit an official letter that backs ITD's decision by the end of the week. "Safety I think is our primary concern," said Latah County Commissioner Richard Walser. "I mean, there's other concerns obviously, but I think it seems like it might be the safest route, the straightest shot." According to ITD, more than 350 people attended a public hearing on the matter last month. More than a hundred written comments were turned in, and 58 people submitted their comments verbally. Opponents are concerned that the four-lane highway would threaten the Palouse Prairie along Paradise Ridge. ITD will continue to accept public comments until February 23rd.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/24/13 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:05

Description: KLEW News reported that The Idaho Transportation Department has been trying to re-do the dangerous section of Highway 95 south of Moscow for years, but local environmentalists are giving them negative feedback. Palouse Reporter Rachel Dubrovin explains the statistics that motivated the ITD to invest in the project, and why environmental groups are fighting it. There's little to no debate that the six-and-a-half-mile section of Highway 95 south of Moscow needs to be fixed. "Well that particular stretch of highway between Thorncreek and Moscow is a high crash area for us, especially during the winter months," said Idaho State Police District 2 Commander Lonnie Richardson. According to the Idaho Transportation Department, it's the fourth most dangerous section of highway in the state. "It is one of our highest locations for accidents," said Highway 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Project Manager Ken Helm. Richardson points to the section of Highway 95 south of Thorncreek Road as an example of how expanding the highway can help save lives. "The road from the top of Lewiston Hill to Thorncreek when it was finished, our crashes reduced by about 65%," said Richardson. From the beginning of 2010 till the end of 2011, there was a total of 24 crashes on that four-lane section of highway. During that same time, there were 47 crashes on the two-lane section between Thorncreek and Moscow, three of which were fatal. "We see a lot of head on crashes, we see a lot of sideswipe crashes," said Richardson. ITD has developed three options, for a new highway, and they made it clear that they support the eastern alternative known as "E-2". "It's the shortest," said Helm. "It's got the fewest access points, fewest approaches along the whole route." And Idaho State Police backs that decision. "Our preference is the E-2 route for sure, because it's the straightest," said Richardson. "We found that when you can straighten a road out and widen the road out, then crashes will reduce." But there is opposition, particularly from environmentalists who say putting a highway near Paradise Ridge endangers the Palouse Prairie ecosystem. "The spread of weeds would encompass all of this yellow area, which goes all the way up to the top of the ridge," said Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition Secretary Mary Ulrich. Environmental groups like the Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition back the central alternative known as "C-3". They say the only reason ITD calls it the least safe alternative is because their studies were incomplete. "They did not consider wildlife, and collisions with wildlife," said Ulrich. The Paradise Ridge Coalition doesn't give much credit to the idea that E-2 is safer. "All of them are safe," said Ulrich. A decision has yet to be made, and those who drive that stretch of highway 95, as well as the families of those who have lost loved ones due to fatal crashes, hope that the wait comes to an end soon. The Idaho Transportation Department will accept public comment on the project until Monday. After that, they will review every comment and develop a final environmental impact statement.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/22/13, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:56

Description: KLEW News reported that the public comment period for the proposed U.S.-95 project, south of Moscow has been extended. Officials said residents now have until March 25th, to comment. The Federal Highway Administration and Idaho Transportation Department decided to extend the comment period after learning that the Idaho department of Fish and Game, and the Environmental Protection Agency did not receive the draft environmental impact statement. The U.S.-95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow project would replace approximately 6.5 miles of the existing two-lane roadway with a new four-lane divided highway. The project is expected to improve safety and highway capacity.

### **The Need to Address Government Sequester**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/11/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:02

Description: KLEW News reported that The U.S. Forest Service announced plans to combine the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests as part of a transition that could take several years. KLEW News spoke with Rick Brazell, the forest supervisor for the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Service, who confirmed that the process will be a slow one as they will eventually cut \$2 million in staffing, reduce upper management and establish a headquarters in Kamiah. Brazell said that the Forest Service is not leaving the communities of Orofino and Grangeville any time soon, adding that the forest service has a lease at their current building in Grangeville for the next ten years. Brazell said the slow transition should help keep any job loss to a minimum with expected retirements helping to ease the loss of jobs in the process.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/25/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:51

Description: KLEW News reported that the unexpected news of possible closures came out of the clear blue sky for 238 air traffic control towers; these cuts are due to the growing federal deficit. "It's paid for by the Federal Aviation Administration and so it's within their prerogative to open or close it at their discretion," said Lewiston-Nez Perce Co. Regional Airport Manager Robin Turner. The air traffic control tower at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport is among the several hundred towers throughout the country that will close if the federal government cannot reach an agreement on how to avoid mandated spending cuts. Which means that, without their eyes on the sky, pilots will have to rely on the automated system. "If any portion of that automated system goes down, there's no human backup in the air traffic control tower," said Turner. National closures would quickly affect regions across the nation. "It impacts the ability of the community to recruit additional business into town, business relies on professional corporate aviation," said Turner. Corporate aviation is one aspect of the traffic in and out of the airport, but what about commercial aviation? Alaska, Delta, what about those carriers? "The air traffic control center in Seattle bases its decision whether or not to allow an aircraft to arrive based upon known traffic," said Turner. And if the air traffic control tower isn't here then they have to take other safety precautions and the risk for that airliner heightens. "Generally speaking airlines don't like to operate in an uncontrolled environment," said Turner. While Turner said there's no immediate threat to lose those jet liners at this time, he reminds people that there are airports currently running without air traffic control. If a budget agreement by the President and Congress isn't reached by Friday, airport towers could see closures as early as the end of this month.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/1/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:50

Description: KLEW News reported that the Federal budget cuts are hitting close to home according to Lewiston Independent School District No. 1 Superintendent Dr. Joy Rapp. Rapp said the school district is expecting anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000 in federal funding cuts that are going to affect the 2013 to 2014 school year. Federal programs that are likely to see massive cuts include special education assistance programs, Title One student assistance programs, which offer free and reduced lunch rates to students who need it, and the teacher quality improvement program. The pre-school program will see modest cuts, but they're cuts nonetheless. "Cutting programs for children, especially those with the highest needs, isn't anything that anyone would look forward to or welcome," said Rapp. Rapp said that due to the recession, any cuts that come in, whether they're local, state or federal are felt greatly amongst the students and staff.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/18/13, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:43

Description: KLEW News reported that the continuous disagreement between party lines regarding sequestration is worrisome as budget cuts will impact a new group. Children and Educators alike are now feeling the pain from a series of federal automatic cuts, called sequestration because Congress and the president have been unable to reach an agreement regarding the national budget. That impasse has created issues here, locally at the Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program. "The sad part is that it does cut back services so kids won't receive the full complement of instruction and support that they typically get," said Executive Director Dorlan Hergesheimer. As it stands now Idaho has lost \$3.7 million from general education and according to the White House press these cuts will jeopardize approximately 50 teachers, numerous classroom aides and about 5,000 students, the hardest hit are among the youngest generation. "Now that it's in effect between now and the end of our fiscal year, which is the end of December we have to find a way to cut \$200,000" said Hergesheimer. Reducing services by shortening the school year is one proposed plan for the early child hood program, however this also has the potential of limiting what a child can learn in the shortened time. "They won't have as many hours in the classroom obviously to spend with their teacher and to prepare for kindergarten," Coordinator Nancy Vassar Smith. In order to cut the growing federal deficit an automatic budget cut like these are being felt from state to state, and has affected everything from national security to individuals with special needs. "It's that whole inclusion piece and they'll miss that," said Manager Maureen Schuz. "They won't be here for that classroom time." The budget designed to help teach children with disabilities will see cuts up to \$2.9 million. "That's a big setback for those families and for the children," said Vasser Smith. Many of the people we have spoken with feel the success of our country's future lies within the minds of young students and believe education should be exempt from the budget cuts due to its vital nature for the future of the country. "It has such a long term impact and implications for any society," said Hergesheimer.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/26/13, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:06

Description: KLEW News reported that representative members of the Idaho congressional delegation were at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport air traffic control tower on Tuesday. Republican Senator Mike Crapo and Republican Congressman Raul Labrador met with airport and tower authorities Tuesday for a closed meeting. Chairman of the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport, Bill McCann said he hopes to demonstrate how important the tower is for the region. "To show them what the tower is, to talk to them about the need for a tower here for our aviation safety, and for the safety and transportation of our residents," said McCann. Due to federal budget cuts, the tower is scheduled to close on May 5th.